



Poison Canyon Mine, Reclaimed Declined Shaft, 9/12/95



Poison Canyon Mine, Small Depression, 9/12/95



Poison Canyon Mine, Erosion Feature, 9/12/95

State of New Mexico
ENERGY, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505



January 24, 1995

Mr. Tim Leftwich
Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corp.
P. O. Box 27019
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87125

RE: Evaluation Guidelines for Prior Reclamation Sites.

Dear Mr. Leftwich:

The Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) will be conducting inspections for the purposes of prior reclamation for the site(s) you have requested release. Based on Section 69-36-5 E. of the New Mexico Mining Act, the MMD has developed inventory of items to determine whether the completed reclamation satisfies the requirements of the New Mexico Mining Act and the substantive requirements for reclamation pursuant to the applicable regulatory standards.

This checklist is included for your use to determine if your site meets all of the ten criteria. Based on site-specific information, the MMD will be using this checklist to establish criterion based decisions to release the site from further responsibilities under the Act or not.

MMD will begin inspection of prior reclamation sites in early 1995 and will make a determination by September 30, 1995. If you have any questions regarding the checklist or questions regarding the inspection of your reclamation sites, please contact me or Joe DeAguiro at 505\827-5970.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Holland Shepherd".

Holland Shepherd, Bureau Chief
Mine Act Reclamation Bureau
Mining and Minerals Division

VILLAGRA BUILDING - 406 Galisteo
Forestry and Resources Conservation Division
P.O. Box 1948 87504-1948
827-5830
Park and Recreation Division
P.O. Box 1147 87504-1147
827-7465

2840 South Pasadeno
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827-5950
Administrative Services
827-5925
Energy Conservation & Management
827-5800
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827-5970
Oil Conservation
827-7131

MK

State of New Mexico
ENERGY, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505



BRUCE KING
GOVERNOR

December 14, 1994

ANITA LOCKWOOD
CABINET SECRETARY



Mr. Tim Leftwich
Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corp.
P. O. Box 218
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

RE: Evaluation Guidelines for Prior Reclamation Sites.

Dear Mr. Leftwich:

The Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) will be conducting inspections for the purposes of prior reclamation for the site(s) you have requested release. Based on Section 69-36-5 E. of the New Mexico Mining Act, the MMD has developed inventory of items to determine whether the completed reclamation satisfies the requirements of the New Mexico Mining Act and the substantive requirements for reclamation pursuant to the applicable regulatory standards.

This checklist is included for your use to determine if your site meets all of the ten criteria. Based on site-specific information, the MMD will be using this checklist to establish criterion based decisions to release the site from further responsibilities under the Act or not.

MMD will begin inspection of prior reclamation sites in early 1995 and will make a determination by September 30, 1995. If you have any questions regarding the checklist or questions regarding the inspection of your reclamation sites, please contact me or Joe DeAguiro at 505\827-5970.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "H. Shepherd".

Holland Shepherd
Bureau Chief
Mine Act Reclamation Bureau
Mining and Minerals Division

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827-5900

Mining and Minerals
827-5970

LAND OFFICE BUILDING - 310 Old Santa Fe Trail
Oil Conservation Division
P.O. Box 2088 87504-2088
827-5800

**PRIOR RECLAMATION GUIDELINES FOR RELEASE FROM
REQUIREMENTS OF THE NEW MEXICO MINING ACT.**

THE PURPOSE OF THIS CHECKLIST IS TO EQUITABLY CONDUCT EACH INSPECTION OF RECLAIMED AREAS TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE COMPLETED RECLAMATION SATISFIES THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE NEW MEXICO MINING ACT AND THE SUBSTANTIVE REQUIREMENTS FOR RECLAMATION PURSUANT TO THE APPLICABLE REGULATORY STANDARDS. IF THE DIRECTOR DETERMINES THAT THOSE REQUIREMENTS ARE MET, THE OPERATOR OR OWNER SHALL BE RELEASED FROM FURTHER REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE NEW MEXICO MINING ACT.

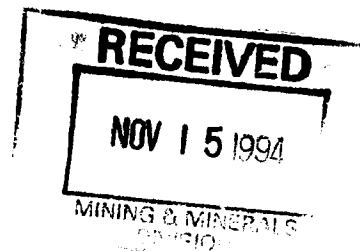
YES	NO	
_____	_____	1) Have all disturbed or affected areas of the mining operation been mitigated?
_____	_____	2) Has there been topdressing or topsoil replacement? If yes, approximate depth:_____.
_____	_____	3) Is the material on the ground surface suitable for the re-establishment of vegetation and the post mining land use?
_____	_____	4) Is the reclaimed surface devoid of waste, ore or other mining debris (e.g. equipment & structures) that would hinder revegetation.
_____	_____	5) Has the mitigated area been stabilized to effectively control erosion which would either disrupt the post-mining land use or the re-establishment of vegetation?
_____	_____	6) Do the reclaimed areas, to the extent practicable, provide stabilization that will minimize future impacts to the environment and protect air and water resources
_____	_____	7) Are the reconstructed slopes at lengths and gradients sufficient to allow vegetation establishment without excess erosion?
_____	_____	8) Do reconstructed drainages discharge onto undisturbed areas in a manner that will not cause accelerated erosion?
_____	_____	9) If rip-rap has been placed on reconstructed drainages, has it been placed correctly and is it of durable material and of suitable size?
_____	_____	10) Has the disturbed area been reclaimed to a condition that will allow a self-sustaining ecosystem to establish as defined in Rule 1.

**SANTA FE
PACIFIC
GOLD
CORPORATION**

BOX 27019 ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87125
6200 UPTOWN BLVD NE, SUITE 400
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87110
TEL 505-880-5300 FAX 505-880-5435

November 8, 1994

Mr. Holland Shephard
Chief, Mining Act Reclamation Bureau
2040 Pacheco Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505



Re: Request for additional information concerning prior reclamation

Dear Mr. Shephard:

I have received your September 19, 1994 letter requesting additional information on the sites potentially eligible for prior reclamation which we brought to your attention in our letter of August 31, 1994. With this letter we attempt to provide some of the information requested as to some of the sites. As in your August 31, 1994 letter, however, Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation ("SFPGC") again preserves all of its positions relating to the Act. Also, by providing certain information that is readily available to us and within the scope of your requests, SFPGC would like to preserve the position that the information requested is not "required" by any statutory or regulatory provision.

As you know, although Santa Fe holds interests in the properties it voluntarily identified in the August 31 letter, it did not own, conduct, or otherwise control any of the operations which were undertaken by third party mining companies pursuant to certain leases. As a result, SFPGC typically is not in a position to describe such things as all waste units, impoundments, stockpiles, leach piles, open pits or adits which may previously have been located at the sites. Similarly, SFPGC did not in many instances conduct the reclamation work, and so is not able to precisely describe such things as seed mixes, reclamation design, etc. Although SFPGC has voluntarily undertaken its own reclamation program at certain sites, (even prior to passage of the New Mexico Mining Act) it has done so voluntarily in the sense that it was motivated by its own corporate philosophy toward the environment rather than pursuant to any statutory, regulatory or other legal obligation.

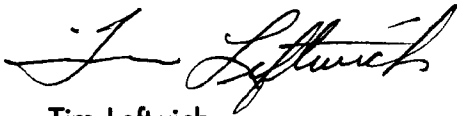
Enclosed is the additional information we can provide, including what our latest records show as the names and addresses of the operators which should be able to provide the bulk of your desired data. We have also provided names and addresses of surface owners, since they are in the best--if not the only--position to know about post-mining land uses.

November 8, 1994

Page 2

I hope this helps the Mining Act Reclamation Bureau. Please give me a call if you or your staff would like to discuss this further.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tim Leftwich".

Tim Leftwich
Vice President -
Environmental Quality

TL:pt

Enclosure



Gallup Title Company

CHARLES F. HEA
PHILIP G. GARY

ABSTRACTS - ESCROWS - TITLE INSURANCE

October 13, 1994

Mr. G.R. Wagner
Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corp.
6200 Uptown Blvd., NE, Suite 400
Albuquerque, NM 87110

VIA FAX: (505) 880-5435

Dear George:

Pursuant to your request of October 7, 1994 following are land ownerships and addresses of owners that you asked that I check on for you, to wit:

T.13N., R.8W, Section 7: Fernandez Company
5000 San Mateo
San Mateo, NM 87050

T.13N., R.9W, Sections 1,7,17,21,23,29,and 31:
Isabel O. Marquez and
Solomon Marques, trustees
of the Isabel O. Marquez
Trust
P.O. Box 3526
Milan, NM 87021

Section 19:

Isabel O. Marquez
(above address)

T.13N., R.10W, Section 19:

Donna Jean McKinnon &
Frances Laree Fathree
C/O Volton Tietjen
P.O. Box 125
Continental Divide, NM 87312

Section 25:

Berryhill Ranch, Ltd.
7000 W. 66 Ave.
Bluewater, NM 87005

T.13N., R.11W., Section 12(SW1/4):

Elkins Real Estate
P.O. Box 50
Prewitt, NM 84045

Continued...

State of New Mexico
ENERGY, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505



BRUCE KING
GOVERNOR

November 3, 1994



ANITA LOCKWOOD
CABINET SECRETARY

Mr. Tim Leftwich
Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corp.
Post Office Box 27019
Albuquerque, NM 87125

Re: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation's Prior Reclamation
Status, Faith Mine et al, McKinley Mine

Dear Mr. Leftwich:

Thank you for your letter dated August 31, 1994, requesting approval for the prior reclamation of Section's 1, 13, 17, 31, 19, 25 and Faith, Isabella, Johnny M, Marquez, SW 1/4 Sec. 13, and Poison Canyon Mine Areas.

Section 5.10 of the New Mexico Mining Commission Rule 94-1, requires that we conduct an inspection of your mine to determine if the prior reclamation "satisfy the requirements of the Act and the substantive requirements for reclamation pursuant to ..." the rules. In this case the Director of the Mining and Minerals Division will make a determination on the adequacy of your reclamation by September 30, 1995.

Your letter and a subsequent letter did include checks totalling \$3,000.00, since the Mining and Minerals Division has interpreted the rules to require \$250.00 for each mine site. The maps submitted identified the general areas where the mines were located. However, the following information is required before the application for prior reclamation status can be considered complete:

1. a map of 1:24000 or larger scale (1:12000) showing the limits of the reclaimed area and the location, and a description, of any waste units, impoundments, stockpiles, leach piles, open pits or adits that are within this area;
2. a discussion of post-mining land use for the site reclaimed;

VILLAGRA BUILDING - 408 Galisteo
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2040 South Pacheco
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LAND OFFICE BUILDING - 310 Old Santa Fe Trail
Oil Conservation Division
P.O. Box 2088 87504-2088
827-5800

Mr. Tim Leftwich
November 3, 1994
Page -2-

3. a detailed description of the reclamation work performed, including types of reclamation conducted, amount of acres revegetated, the seed mix used, the current condition of the revegetation, etc., and how the reclamation project has been designed to achieve a self-sustaining ecosystem; and,
4. if part of the reclamation, a discussion of how the current reclamation of waste units, impoundments, stockpiles, tailings piles open pits or adits, have been designed to ensure compliance with all applicable federal and state standards for air, surface and ground water protection and to eliminate any future hazards to health and public safety.

Please call me at (505)827-5970 if you have any questions concerning the new regulations, the permit process or any other related issues.

Sincerely,



HOLLAND SHEPHERD, Bureau Chief
Mining Act Reclamation Bureau
Mining and Minerals Division

HS/AJ/fg



SANTA FE
PACIFIC
GOLD
CORPORATION

BOX 27019 ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87125
6200 UPTOWN BLVD NE, SUITE 400
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87110
TEL 505-880-5300 FAX 505-880-5435

A Santa Fe Pacific Company

September 19, 1994

Mr. John Lingo, Acting Director
Mining and Minerals Division
New Mexico Energy, Minerals and
Natural Resources Department
2040 South Pacheco
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is Santa Fe Pacific's check in the amount of \$3,000 which should have been enclosed with our letter of August 31, 1994 regarding our request for approval of prior reclamation in connection with the 1993 New Mexico Mining Act.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me.

Very truly yours,



G. R. Wagner
Manager - Lease Records

GRW:bls
Enclosure

cc: T. J. Leftwich

INVOICE DATE	INVOICE NUMBER	INVOICE AMOUNT	VOUCHER NUMBER	PAYMENT AMOUNT
09/07/94	4721190907	3,000.00	09-05717	
<i>This check covers prior reclamation fees for the attached 12 mine sites.</i> <i>arg</i>				
TOTALS →				3,000.00

SANTA FE PACIFIC GOLD CORP.

VEN#:59566

DATE:09/16/94

MICR#:09191790

SYS#:09037820

SANTA FE PACIFIC GOLD CORP.

THE NORTHERN TRUST COMPANY ²⁻¹⁵
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 710

Box 27019
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87125-7019
(505) 880-5300

A SANTA FE PACIFIC COMPANY

No. 191790

09/16/94

\$****3,000.00

PAY ***** THREE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS *****

TO THE
ORDER
OF

NM ENERGY, MIN. & NAT. RES. DE
MINING & MINERALS DIV.
2040 PACHECO STREET
SANTA FE , NM 87505

Robert M. Vitzgum

⑈ 191790 ⑈ ⑆071000152⑆ 30399708⑈

check # 47 21190907 for \$3,000.00
 covers these mines for prior reclamation. *are*

REQUESTS FOR PRIOR RECLAMATION

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Rd	Fee Paid By	Pd	Mine Name	Location	Present/Former Operator	Mineral Ownership	Map	Required Info
8/31/94	Santa Fe Pac. Gold Corp.	250	Unknown	13 1N 9W	M.P. Grace	Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corp.		
"	Homestake Mng. Co.	250	Unknown	25 14N 10W	Homestake-Sagin	"	✓	✓
"	"	250	"	23 14N 10W	"	"	✓	✓
"	"	250	"	15 14N 10W	"	"	✓	✓
"	"	250	"	13 14N 10W	"	"	✓	✓
"	Hecla Mng. Co.	250	Hope Mine	19 13N 9W	Ranchers Explor.	"	✓	Oct. 15
"	"	250	Doris Mine	21 13N 9W	"	"	✓	Oct. 15
"	Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corp.	250	Faith Mine	29 13N 9W	"	"	✓	
"	"	250	Isabella	7 13N 9W	"	"		
"	"	250	Johnny M.	7 13N 9W	"	" (Hecla reclaims)		
"	"	250	Unknown	17 13N 9W	United Nuclear	"	✓	
"	"	250	"	31 13N 9W	"	"	✓	
"	"	250	Marquez	23 13N 9W	"	"	✓	
"	"	250	SW 1/4	13 13N 11W	Todito Explor.	"	✓	
"	"	250	Unknown	19 13N 10W	"	"	✓	
"	"	250	Paisan Canyon	19 13N 9W	Resarco Oil & Min.	"	✓	
"	"	250	Sec. 25	25 13N 10W	"	"	✓	
"	"	250	Unknown	1 13N 9W	Kerr-McGee	"		
7/1/94	Quivera Mining Co.	250	Sec. 17	17 14N 9W	Quivera Mng. Co.	Quivera Mng. Co.		
"	"	"	19	19 14N 9W	"	"		
"	"	"	22	22 14N 10W	"	"		
"	"	"	24	24 14N 10W	"	"		
"	"	"	30	30 14N 9W	"	"		
"	"	"	30W	30 14N 9W	"	"		
"	"	"	33	33 14N 9W	"	"		
"	"	"	36	36 14N 9W	"	"		
6/30/94	Kerr-McGee Corp.	250	Church Rock I	35 17N	"	"	✓	✓
"	"	"	" II	36 17N	"	"	✓	✓
"	"	"	" II	"	"	"	✓	✓

Index of Correspondence

Date	Addressee	Subject
08/31/94	John Lingo/From: Tim Leftwich	Requests for Approval of Prior Reclamation.
11/03/94	Tim Leftwich/From: Holland S.	Prior Reclamation Status, Faith Mine et al.
12/14/94	Tim Leftwich/From: Holland S.	Evaluation Guidelines for Prior Reclamation Sites.
08/31/94	MARB/From: Section 25, T.14N,R.10W Homestake-Sapin	Request For Approval of Prior Reclamation
08/31/94	MARB/From: Section 23, T.14N,R.10W Homestake - Sapin	" "
08/31/94	MARB/From: Section 15, T.14N,R.10W Homestake - Sapin	" "
08/31/94	MARB/From: Section 1, T.13N, R.9W Kerr McGee	" "
08/31/94	MARB/From: Section 13, T.1N, R.6W M.P. Grace	" "
08/31/94	MARB/From: Section 13, T.14N, R.10W Homestake - Sapin	" "
08/31/94	MARB/From: Section 29, T.13N, R.9W Ranchers Exploration	" "
08/31/94	MARB/From: Section 19, T.13N, R.9W Reserve Oil & Minerals	" "
08/31/94	MARB/From: Section 23, T.13N, R.9W United Nuclear Corp.	" "
08/31/94	MARB/From: Section 7, T.13N, R.9W Ranchers Exploration	" "
08/31/94	MARB/From: Section 7, T.13N, R.8W Ranchers Exploration	" "
08/31/94	MARB/From: Section 21, T.13N, R.9W Ranchers Exploration	" "
08/31/94	MARB/From: Section 31, T.13N, R.9W United Nuclear	" "
08/31/94	MARB/From: Section 25, T.13N, R.10W Reserve Oil & Minerals	" "
08/31/94	MARB/From: Section 19, T.13N, R.10W Todilto Exploration	" "
08/31/94	MARB/From: Section 19, T.13N, R.9W Ranchers Exploration	" "
08/31/94	MARB/From: Section 1, T.13N.,R.9W Kerr McGee	" "
08/31/94	MARB/From: Section 17, T.13N, R.9W United Nuclear	" "
08/31/94	MARB/From: Section 13, T.1N, R.6W M.P. Grace	" "
08/31/94	MARB/From: SW/4, Section 13, T.13N, R.11W Todilto Exploration	" "

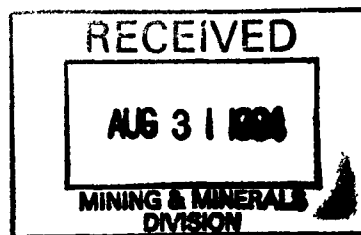


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ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87110
TEL 505-880-5300 FAX 505-880-5435

A Santa Fe Pacific Company

August 31, 1994
HAND DELIVERED



Mr. John Lingo, Director
Mining & Minerals Division
Energy, Minerals & Natural
Resources Department
2040 Pacheco Street
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

Re: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation's Requests for Approval of
Prior Reclamation

Dear Mr. Lingo:

On behalf of Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation, this letter is being hand-delivered along with a series of one-page submittals and accompanying maps identifying certain properties which it believes were previously mined by other companies for recovery of uranium ores. These submissions are made in a spirit of cooperation even though Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation believes it is not required to make the submittals or undertake any other action under the New Mexico Mining Act, if that Act is deemed to apply at all to the uranium operations conducted at the site. Further, these submissions are made with the expectation that they may overlap with submissions by companies which conducted or owned the operations causing any disturbances.

For each site, Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation would like to request that the Director of the Mining and Minerals Division approve prior reclamation efforts pursuant to the New Mexico Mining Act if the Director believes that the Mining Act may be applicable to the operations previously conducted thereon. Pursuant to our attorney's recent discussions with you, these submissions are made with the express understanding that Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation fully preserves and does not waive any of its positions that it has no obligations whatsoever under the Mining Act with respect to these sites including, but not limited to, the following positions:

Mr. John Lingo, Director
August 31, 1994
Page 2

1. That any commodities or other materials produced from the properties or activities thereon constitute commodities, materials or activities regulated by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission such that the Mining Act does not apply;
2. That minerals were not produced from the properties in marketable quantities for a total of two years since January 1, 1970;
3. That as mere owner of mineral interests and lessor under instrument(s) pursuant to which operations owned and conducted by others occurred on the properties, Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation was not and is not an operator or owner of the operations with responsibilities, if there be any, under the Mining Act; and
4. That Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has no obligation whatsoever to request approval of prior reclamation or carry out other responsibilities, if there be any, pertaining to the properties in relation to the Mining Act.

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation makes these submissions with the further understanding that neither the submissions themselves, nor anything stated therein, nor the fact of making the submissions shall be advanced in any context, form or respect by the State of New Mexico or any agency or subdivision thereof as evidence or as an admission of any kind on any issue which may exist or hereafter arise in relation to Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation or its mineral properties in connection with the Mining Act. The same understanding applies in all respects to this letter.

With the exception of two mines, Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation believes these submissions cover all of its New Mexico properties that might conceivably be argued as properties on which "existing mining operations" are situated. The first such exception is the Northeast Church Rock Mine in Section 35, Township 17 North, Range 16 West. The Northeast Church Rock Mine was operated by United Nuclear Corporation under a lease with Santa Fe Pacific Minerals Corporation, now Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation. That lease recently terminated after the adoption of the New Mexico Mining Act.

The second uranium mine for which submission is not made with this letter is the Old Church Rock Mine in Section 17, Township 16 North, Range 16 West. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation believes that ongoing mining operations exist or are contemplated at that site by its most current lessee, Hydro Resources, Inc., and is informed that that company is already in contact with MMD

Mr. John Lingo, Director
August 31, 1994
Page 3

concerning any Mining Act responsibilities that may be applicable to the operations.

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation's purpose for voluntarily submitting the enclosed requests for approval of prior reclamation, and for identifying in this letter the two leased uranium mine sites for which no submissions are made, is to cooperate fully and in a spirit of good faith so as to assist the Mining and Minerals Division in its tasks of identifying and narrowing down the potential Mining Act-regulated operations that may require a greater level of regulatory involvement.

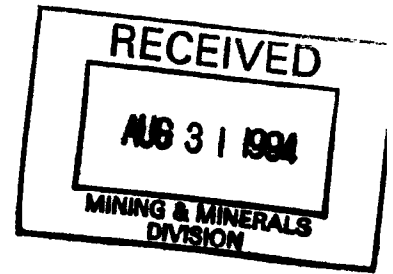
If you have any questions concerning this letter, the enclosed submissions or the nonwaiver/preservation of rights language included, please do not hesitate to call.

Very truly yours,


Tim Leftwich for

260530

Request For Approval Of Prior Reclamation



Name Of Mine: Isabella Mine

Topographic Location Of Mine: Section 7, T.13N., R.9W.

Operator Name: Ranchers Exploration

Description Of Site Condition: Ranchers had limited operations on this section under a lease from Santa Fe Pacific Minerals Corporation. This section was reclaimed in 1987. Surface disturbance areas were revegetated with native species and topography returned to original contour to the extent feasible. Mine features were backfilled or otherwise safeguarded.

Date Of Request: August 31, 1994

Non-waiver/Preservation Of Rights: This request for approval of prior reclamation is made with the express understanding that Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation fully preserves and does not waive any of its positions that it has no obligations whatsoever under the Mining Act with respect to these sites including, but not limited to, the following positions:

1. That any commodities or other materials produced from the properties or activities thereon constitute commodities, materials or activities regulated by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission such that the Mining Act does not apply;
2. That minerals were not produced from the properties in marketable quantities for a total of two years since January 1, 1970;
3. That as mere owner of mineral interests and lessor under instrument(s) pursuant to which operations owned and conducted by others occurred on the properties, Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation was not and is not an operator or owner of the operations with responsibilities, if there be any, under the Mining Act; and
4. That Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has no obligation whatsoever to request approval of prior reclamation or carry out other responsibilities, if there be any, pertaining to the properties in relation to the Mining Act.

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation makes this submission with the further understanding that neither the submission itself, nor anything stated therein, nor the fact of making the submission shall be advanced in any context, form or respect by the State of New Mexico or any agency or subdivision thereof as evidence or as an admission of any kind on any issue which may exist or hereafter arise in relation to Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation or its mineral properties in connection with the Mining Act.

—JOHNNY M MINE

MK003PR —

03PR —

State of New Mexico
ENERGY, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505



BRUCE KING
GOVERNOR

November 3, 1994



ANITA LOCKWOOD
CABINET SECRETARY

Mr. Tim Leftwich
Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corp.
Post Office Box 27019
Albuquerque, NM 87125

Re: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation's Prior Reclamation
Status, Faith Mine et al, McKinley Mine

Dear Mr. Leftwich:

Thank you for your letter dated August 31, 1994, requesting approval for the prior reclamation of Section's 1, 13, 17, 31, 19, 25 and Faith, Isabella, Johnny M, Marquez, SW 1/4 Sec. 13, and Poison Canyon Mine Areas.

Section 5.10 of the New Mexico Mining Commission Rule 94-1, requires that we conduct an inspection of your mine to determine if the prior reclamation "satisfy the requirements of the Act and the substantive requirements for reclamation pursuant to ..." the rules. In this case the Director of the Mining and Minerals Division will make a determination on the adequacy of your reclamation by September 30, 1995.

Your letter and a subsequent letter did include checks totalling \$3,000.00, since the Mining and Minerals Division has interpreted the rules to require \$250.00 for each mine site. The maps submitted identified the general areas where the mines were located. However, the following information is required before the application for prior reclamation status can be considered complete:

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2. a discussion of post-mining land use for the site reclaimed;

VILLAGRA BUILDING - 406 Galisteo

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827-5900

Mining and Minerals
827-5970

LAND OFFICE BUILDING - 310 Old Santa Fe Trail

Oil Conservation Division
P.O. Box 2088 87504-2088
827-5800

Mr. Tim Leftwich
November 3, 1994
Page -2-

3. a detailed description of the reclamation work performed, including types of reclamation conducted, amount of acres revegetated, the seed mix used, the current condition of the revegetation, etc., and how the reclamation project has been designed to achieve a self-sustaining ecosystem; and,
4. if part of the reclamation, a discussion of how the current reclamation of waste units, impoundments, stockpiles, tailings piles open pits or adits, have been designed to ensure compliance with all applicable federal and state standards for air, surface and ground water protection and to eliminate any future hazards to health and public safety.

Please call me at (505)827-5970 if you have any questions concerning the new regulations, the permit process or any other related issues.

Sincerely,



HOLLAND SHEPHERD, Bureau Chief
Mining Act Reclamation Bureau
Mining and Minerals Division

HS/AJ/fg



**SANTA FE
PACIFIC
GOLD
CORPORATION**

BOX 27019 ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87125
6200 UPTOWN BLVD NE, SUITE 400
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87110
TEL 505-880-5300 FAX 505-880-5435

A Santa Fe Pacific Company

September 19, 1994

**Mr. John Lingo, Acting Director
Mining and Minerals Division
New Mexico Energy, Minerals and
Natural Resources Department
2040 South Pacheco
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505**

Dear Sir:

Enclosed is Santa Fe Pacific's check in the amount of \$3,000 which should have been enclosed with our letter of August 31, 1994 regarding our request for approval of prior reclamation in connection with the 1993 New Mexico Mining Act.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me.

Very truly yours,



**G. R. Wagner
Manager - Lease Records**

**GRW:bls
Enclosure**

cc: T. J. Leftwich

INVOICE DATE	INVOICE NUMBER	INVOICE AMOUNT	VOUCHER NUMBER	PAYMENT AMOUNT
09/07/94	4721190907	3,000.00	09-05717	
<i>This check covers prior reclamation fees for the attached 12 mine sites.</i> <i>arg</i>				
TOTALS →				3,000.00

SANTA FE PACIFIC GOLD CORP.

VEN#:59566

DATE:09/16/94

MICR#:09191790

SYS#:09037820

SANTA FE PACIFIC GOLD CORP.

THE NORTHERN TRUST COMPANY 2-18
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 710

Box 27019
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87125-7019
(505) 880-5300

A SANTA FE PACIFIC COMPANY

No. 191790

09/16/94

*****3,000.00

PAY ***** THREE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS *****

TO THE
ORDER
OF

NM ENERGY, MIN. & NAT. RES. DE
MINING & MINERALS DIV.
2040 PACHECO STREET
SANTA FE , NM 87505

Robert M. Wiggins

⑈ 191790 ⑈ ⑆ 071000152⑆ 30399708 ⑈

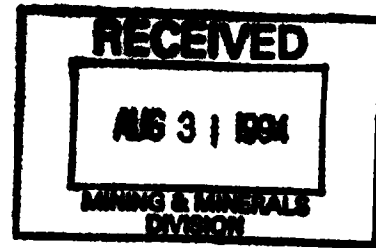
check # 47 21190907 for \$3,000.00
 covers these mines for prior reclamation. *are*

REQUESTS FOR PRIOR RECLAMATION

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Rord	Fee Paid By	Pd	Mine Name	Location	Present/Former Operator	Mineral Ownership	Map	Required Info
8/31/94	Santa Fe P.c. Gold Corp.	250	Unknown	13 1N 9W	M.P. Grace	Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corp.		
"	Homestake Mng. Co	250	Unknown	25 14N 10W	Homestake-Super	"	✓	✓
"	"	250	"	23 14N 10W	"	"	✓	✓
"	"	250	"	15 14N 10W	"	"	✓	✓
"	"	250	"	13 14N 10W	"	"	✓	✓
"	Hecla Mng. Co	250	Hope Mine	19 13N 9W	Ranchers Explor.	"	✓	Oct. 15
"	"	250	Doris Mine	21 13N 9W	"	"	✓	Oct. 15
"	Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corp.	250	Faith Mine	29 13N 9W	"	"	✓	
"	"	250	Isabella	7 13N 9W	"	"		
"	"	250	Johnny M	7 13N 8W	"	" (Hecla reclaim.)		
"	"	250	Unknown	17 13N 9W	United Nuclear	"	✓	
"	"	250	"	31 13N 9W	"	"	✓	
"	"	250	Marquez	23 13N 9W	"	"	✓	
"	"	250	SW 1/4	13 13N 11W	Todolito Explor.	"	✓	
"	"	250	Unknown	19 13N 10W	"	"	✓	
"	"	250	Pisen Canyon	19 13N 9W	Reserve Oil & Min.	"	✓	
"	"	250	Sec. 25	25 13N 10W	"	"	✓	
"	"	250	Unknown	1 13N 9W	Kerr-McGee	"		
7/1/94	Quivera Mining Co.	250	Sec. 17	17 14N 9W	Quivera Mng. Co.	Quivera Mng. Co.		
"	"	"	"	19 14N 9W	"	"		
"	"	"	"	22 14N 10W	"	"		
"	"	"	"	24 14N 10W	"	"		
"	"	"	"	30 14N 9W	"	"		
"	"	"	"	30W 30 14N 9W	"	"		
"	"	"	"	33 14N 9W	"	"		
"	"	"	"	36 14N 9W	"	"		
6/30/94	Kerr-McGee Corp.	250	Church Rock I	35 17N	"	"	✓	✓
"	"	"	"	36 17N	"	"	✓	✓
"	"	"	"	II	"	"	✓	✓

Index of Correspondence

[illegible]



August 30, 1994

Mr. Holland Shepherd
Chief, Mining Act Reclamation Bureau
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department
State of New Mexico
2040 S. Pacheco
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505

RE: Hope, Doris, and [REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Shepherd:


This letter is written to request an inspection for prior reclamation for the Hope and Doris Mines. You will find Hecla's check number 0110-026005 for \$500 enclosed to cover the inspection fees for the two mines.

We will forward the additional information requested in items 1 through 4 of your August 29, 1994, letter to you by October 15, 1994.

Regarding the Johnny M Mine, enclosed is a copy of the May 21, 1993, federal register notice of the NRC's findings of the reclaimed site and their decision to terminate the radioactive materials license.

If you need additional information, please give me a call at (208) 769-4154.

Very truly yours,


Gary R. Gamble
Environmental Supervisor

cc: Larry Drew
George Wilhelm

21, 1993. Copies of these petitions are available for inspection at that address.

Dated: May 14, 1993.

Patricia W. Silvey,
Director, Office of Standards, Regulations and
Variances.

[FR Doc. 93-12131 Filed 5-20-93; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4510-43-P

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

Performance Review Board

AGENCY: National Endowment for the
Humanities, NFAH.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces a
revision in the membership of the SES
Executive Resources and Performance
Review Board.

Effective May 14, 1993, Michael S.
Shapiro, General Counsel, Office of the
General Counsel/Congressional Liaison,
has been designated to replace Anne D.
Neal, General Counsel, Office of General
Counsel/Congressional Liaison, as a
Member of the SES Performance Review
Board. Mr. Shapiro will serve the
unexpired portion of Anne D. Neal's
term through December 31, 1993.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Timothy G. Connelly, Director of
Personnel, National Endowment for the
Humanities, 1100 Pennsylvania Avenue
NW., Washington, D.C. 20506.

Donald Gibson,

Acting Chairperson.

[FR Doc. 93-12129 Filed 5-20-93; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7535-01-M

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

Special Emphasis Panel in Research, Evaluation, and Dissemination; Meeting

In accordance with the Federal
Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-
463, as amended), the National Science
Foundation announces the following
meeting.

Date and Time: June 7-8, 1993; 8:30 a.m.
to 5 p.m.

Place: The River Inn, 924 Twenty Fifth
Street, NW., Washington, DC.

Type of Meeting: Closed.

Contact Person: Ms. Barbara Lovitts,
Division of Research, Evaluation and
Dissemination, rm. 1227, National Science
Foundation, 1800 G Street, NW., Washington,
DC 20550, Telephone (202) 357-7071.

Purpose of Meeting: To provide advice and
recommendations concerning proposals
submitted to NSF for financial support.

Agenda: To review and evaluate research
proposals submitted to the Research in

Teaching and Learning Program as part of the
selection process for awards.

Reason for Closing: The proposals being
reviewed include information of a
proprietary or confidential nature, including
technical information; financial data, such as
salaries; and personal information
concerning individuals associated with the
proposals. These matters are exempt under 5
U.S.C. 552b(c), (4) and (6) of the Government
in the Sunshine Act.

Dated: May 18, 1993.

M. Rebecca Winkler,

Committee Management Officer.

[FR Doc. 93-12132 Filed 5-20-93; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7555-01-M

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

[Docket No. 40-8914]

**Hecla Mining Co.; Final Finding of No
Significant Impact Regarding the
Termination of a Source Material
License for Hecla Mining Company,
Johnny M Mine Site, McKinley County,
New Mexico**

AGENCY: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory
Commission.

ACTION: Notice of final finding of no
significant impact.

1. Proposed Action

The proposed administrative action is
to terminate the source material license
authorizing Hecla Mining Company
(Hecla) to possess byproduct material at
the Johnny M Mine, McKinley County,
New Mexico.

2. Reasons for the Final Finding of No Significant Impact

The Johnny M Mine located near San
Mateo, New Mexico, was operated by
Ranchers Exploration and Development
(predecessor to Hecla Mining Company)
from early 1972 to late 1982. The
mining operation included backfilling of
mined-out areas with mill tailings. The
tailings were returned to the site from
the mill which processed the ore. An
estimated 286,000 tons of tailings were
injected into the mine. Disposal depths
ranged from 1134 feet to 1148 feet and
from 1162 feet to 1183 feet below the
surface (using the shaft for datum) or
about 1100 to 1300 feet underground,
depending on the terrain.

Reclamation of the mine property
began in early 1982. The mine shaft was
sealed with a 4-foot thick water ring
reinforced concrete plug set between the
Dakota formation and the Westwater
Canyon member of the Morrison
formation. The portal was sealed with a
12-inch thick reinforced concrete plug,

and a 20-inch diameter capped steel
pipe was set in the concrete.

The radiological reclamation plan for
the site consisted of removing the
remaining surface contamination until
appropriate standards were met. The
underground tailings were to be left
undisturbed. The contaminated material
was transported to and disposed of at
the Quivira Mining Company's Pond 2
disposal area.

The NRC staff evaluated an
Environmental Report, submitted by the
licensee on February 26, 1993,
addressing the effect of the proposed
action on the environment.

In accordance with Title 10, Code of
Federal Regulations, Part 51, Section
51.21, NRC prepared an environmental
assessment addressing the proposed
termination of the license. As a result of
that assessment, the NRC has
determined that an environmental
impact statement is not required for this
proposed licensing action. The
following statements support the
Finding of No Significant Impact and
summarize the environmental
assessment:

A. In accordance with 10 CFR
51.60(b)(3), the licensee submitted an
Environmental Report documenting the
potential environmental effects of the
proposed change.

B. The closure of site meets all the
criteria of 10 CFR Part 40, appendix A.
It was determined that the ground water
has not been significantly affected by
the tailings. Surface reclamation has
been verified by soil sampling. The deed
to the land has been annotated to
indicate that the tailings are present and
that they are subject to an NRC general
license under Title 10, Part 40, Code of
Federal Regulations, prohibiting the
disruption and disturbance of the
tailings.

C. The site has been reclaimed to the
requirements of 10 CFR Part 40,
Paragraph 40.42, and is suitable for
release for unrestricted use.

D. There is no need for long-term
surveillance of the site due to the
location of the tailings in the mine.

In accordance with 10 CFR 51.34(a),
the Director, Uranium Recovery Field
Office (URFO), made the determination
to issue a final finding of no significant
impact in the Federal Register. Source
Material License SUA-1482 for the
Johnny M Mine will be terminated upon
publication in the Federal Register.

The environmental evaluations setting
forth the basis for the finding are
available for public inspection and
copying at the Commission's Uranium
Recovery Field Office, 2200 Summit
Street, Golden, Colorado, and at the

4631

MINING & MINERALS
DIVISION

Commission's Public Document Room at 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC.

Dated at Denver, Colorado, this 13th day of May 1993.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Ramon E. Hall,

Director, Uranium Recovery Field Office.

[FR Doc. 93-12090 Filed 5-20-93; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-M

**Northeast Nuclear Energy Co.;
Environmental Assessment and
Finding of No Significant Impact**

[Docket No. 50-245]

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (the Commission) is considering issuance of an amendment to an exemption from the requirements of 10 CFR Part 50, Appendix J, Paragraph III.C.1 issued to the Northeast Nuclear Energy Company (NNECO or the licensee) for Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit 1, located in New London County, Connecticut.

Environmental Assessment

Identification of the Proposed Action

The proposed action would correct an administrative error. The exemption, which was issued on June 5, 1991, granted exemptions for Penetrations X-25, X-26, X-202E and X-205 from the local leak test (Type C) requirements of 10 CFR part 50, appendix J, section III.C.1. The NRC staff concluded that the proposed alternative test procedures are the most conservative with the existing configuration and will test both valve seals to provide indication of the leak tightness of the containment boundaries. In a letter dated April 15, 1993, NNECO stated that one of the penetrations was not correctly identified, penetration X-202E should have been X-202D, and requested that the exemption be corrected.

The Need for the Proposed Action

The proposed exemption amendment is needed to correctly identify the subject penetration.

Environmental Impacts of the Proposed Action

The proposed exemption amendment corrects a misidentified penetration and, therefore, does not have any environmental impact. In the June 5, 1991, exemption, Penetration X-202E should have been X-202D. Penetration X-202E is for a vacuum breaker (torus to drywell) and does not require 10 CFR part 50, appendix J testing.

Thus, radiological releases will not differ from those determined previously and the proposed exemption -

amendment does not otherwise affect facility radiological effluents or occupational exposures. With regard to potential nonradiological impacts, the proposed exemption amendment does not affect plant nonradiological effluents and has no other environmental impact. Therefore, the Commission concludes there are no measurable radiological or nonradiological environmental impacts associated with the proposed exemption amendment.

Alternative to the Proposed Action

Since the Commission has concluded there is no measurable environmental impact associated with the proposed exemption amendment, any alternative to this amendment will have either no significant different environmental impact or greater environmental impact. The principal alternative would be to deny the exemption amendment requested. Such action would not enhance the protection of the environment and would result in the misidentification of the penetration.

Alternative Use of Resources

This action does not involve the use of resources not considered previously in the Final Environmental Statement for Millstone Nuclear Power Station, Unit 1.

Agencies and Persons Consulted

The NRC staff reviewed the licensee's request and did not consult other agencies or persons.

Finding of No Significant Impact

Based on the foregoing environmental assessment, the Commission concludes that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Accordingly, the Commission has determined not to prepare an environmental impact statement for the proposed exemption amendment.

For further details with respect to this proposed action, see the licensee's letter dated April 15, 1993, which is available for public inspection at the Commission's Public Document Room, the Gelman Building, 2120 L Street, NW., Washington, DC 20555, and at the local public document room located at the Learning Resources Center, Thames Valley State Technical College, 574 New London Turnpike, Norwich, Connecticut 06360.

Dated at Rockville, Maryland, this 13th day of May 1993.

For the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

John F. Stolz, Director,

Project Directorate I-4, Division of Reactor Projects—I/II, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

[FR Doc. 93-12092 Filed 5-20-93; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7590-01-M

[Docket Nos. 50-269, 50-270, and 50-287; License Nos. DRP-38, DPR-47, and DPR-55; EA 92-211]

Duke Power Co., Oconee Nuclear Station; Order Imposing Civil Monetary Penalty

I

Duke Power Company (Licensee) is the holder of License Nos. DPR-38, DPR-47, and DPR-55 issued by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or Commission) on February 6, 1973, October 6, 1973, and July 19, 1974, respectively. The licenses authorize the Licensee to operate the Oconee Nuclear Station in accordance with the conditions specified therein.

II

An inspection of the Licensee's activities was conducted on September 26-November 3, 1992. The results of this inspection indicated that the Licensee had not conducted its activities in full compliance with NRC requirements. A written Notice of Violation and Proposed Imposition of Civil Penalty (Notice) was served upon the Licensee by letter dated December 28, 1992. The Notice stated the nature of the violation, the provision of the NRC's requirements that the Licensee had violated, and the amount of the civil penalty proposed for the violation. The Licensee responded to the Notice by letter dated February 25, 1993. In its response, the Licensee requested that the civil penalty be mitigated because the violation was not safety significant and by itself does not warrant significant regulatory concern and that the particular example cited does not adequately consider all of the related information that accompanied the discovery and identification of the degraded Low Pressure Service Water System flow condition.

III

After consideration of the Licensee's response and the statements of fact, explanation, and argument for mitigation contained therein, the NRC staff has determined, as set forth in the Appendix to this Order, that the violation occurred as stated and that the penalty proposed for the violation


Check No: 0110-000005

Date.	Invoice	Reference	Gross	Deduct.	Net Amt
Aug29/94	0110-FEES	PJ3115 H.O.	500.00	0.00	500.00
Check date Aug 30, 1994		Total	500.00	0.00	500.00

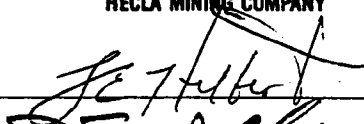
HECLA MINING COMPANY

26005

PLEASE DETACH BEFORE DEPOSITING

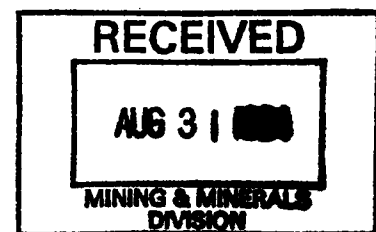
 HECLA MINING COMPANY 6500 MINERAL DRIVE COEUR d' ALENE, ID 83814-8788	92-6 1241	DATE AUG 30, 1994	CHECK NUMBER 0110-026005 PAY EXACTLY \$500.00
	*****500 DOLLARS & 00 CENTS		
	PAID TO THE ORDER OF STATE OF NEW MEXICO ENERGY MINERALS & NATURAL RES 2040 S PACHERO SANTA FE NM 87505		

HECLA MINING COMPANY



FIRST SECURITY BANK OF IDAHO
301 SHERMAN AVE.
COEUR d' ALENE, IDAHO 83814

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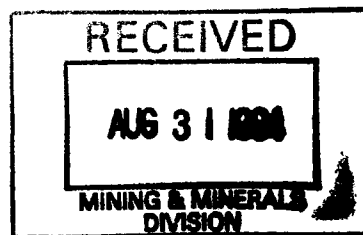


**SANTA FE
PACIFIC
GOLD
CORPORATION**

BOX 27019 ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87125
6200 UPTOWN BLVD NE, SUITE 400
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87110
TEL 505-880-5300 FAX 505-880-5435

A Santa Fe Pacific Company

**August 31, 1994
HAND DELIVERED**



**Mr. John Lingo, Director
Mining & Minerals Division
Energy, Minerals & Natural
Resources Department
2040 Pacheco Street
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505**

**Re: Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation's Requests for Approval of
Prior Reclamation**

Dear Mr. Lingo:

On behalf of Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation, this letter is being hand-delivered along with a series of one-page submittals and accompanying maps identifying certain properties which it believes were previously mined by other companies for recovery of uranium ores. These submissions are made in a spirit of cooperation even though Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation believes it is not required to make the submittals or undertake any other action under the New Mexico Mining Act, if that Act is deemed to apply at all to the uranium operations conducted at the site. Further, these submissions are made with the expectation that they may overlap with submissions by companies which conducted or owned the operations causing any disturbances.

For each site, Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation would like to request that the Director of the Mining and Minerals Division approve prior reclamation efforts pursuant to the New Mexico Mining Act if the Director believes that the Mining Act may be applicable to the operations previously conducted thereon. Pursuant to our attorney's recent discussions with you, these submissions are made with the express understanding that Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation fully preserves and does not waive any of its positions that it has no obligations whatsoever under the Mining Act with respect to these sites including, but not limited to, the following positions:

Mr. John Lingo, Director
August 31, 1994
Page 2

1. That any commodities or other materials produced from the properties or activities thereon constitute commodities, materials or activities regulated by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission such that the Mining Act does not apply;

2. That minerals were not produced from the properties in marketable quantities for a total of two years since January 1, 1970;

3. That as mere owner of mineral interests and lessor under instrument(s) pursuant to which operations owned and conducted by others occurred on the properties, Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation was not and is not an operator or owner of the operations with responsibilities, if there be any, under the Mining Act; and

4. That Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has no obligation whatsoever to request approval of prior reclamation or carry out other responsibilities, if there be any, pertaining to the properties in relation to the Mining Act.

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation makes these submissions with the further understanding that neither the submissions themselves, nor anything stated therein, nor the fact of making the submissions shall be advanced in any context, form or respect by the State of New Mexico or any agency or subdivision thereof as evidence or as an admission of any kind on any issue which may exist or hereafter arise in relation to Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation or its mineral properties in connection with the Mining Act. The same understanding applies in all respects to this letter.

With the exception of two mines, Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation believes these submissions cover all of its New Mexico properties that might conceivably be argued as properties on which "existing mining operations" are situated. The first such exception is the Northeast Church Rock Mine in Section 35, Township 17 North, Range 16 West. The Northeast Church Rock Mine was operated by United Nuclear Corporation under a lease with Santa Fe Pacific Minerals Corporation, now Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation. That lease recently terminated after the adoption of the New Mexico Mining Act.

The second uranium mine for which submission is not made with this letter is the Old Church Rock Mine in Section 17, Township 16 North, Range 16 West. Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation believes that ongoing mining operations exist or are contemplated at that site by its most current lessee, Hydro Resources, Inc., and is informed that that company is already in contact with MMD

Mr. John Lingo, Director
August 31, 1994
Page 3

concerning any Mining Act responsibilities that may be applicable to the operations.

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation's purpose for voluntarily submitting the enclosed requests for approval of prior reclamation, and for identifying in this letter the two leased uranium mine sites for which no submissions are made, is to cooperate fully and in a spirit of good faith so as to assist the Mining and Minerals Division in its tasks of identifying and narrowing down the potential Mining Act-regulated operations that may require a greater level of regulatory involvement.

If you have any questions concerning this letter, the enclosed submissions or the nonwaiver/preservation of rights language included, please do not hesitate to call.

Very truly yours,


Tim Leftwich for

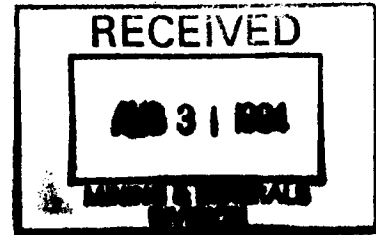
260530

Request For Approval Of Prior Reclamation

Name Of Mine: Johnny M Mine

Topographic Location Of Mine: Section 7, T.13N., R.8W.

Operator Name: Ranchers Exploration



Description Of Site Condition: Ranchers had limited operations on this section under a lease from Santa Fe Pacific Minerals Corporation. This section was reclaimed in 1987. Surface disturbance areas were revegetated with native species and topography returned to original contour to the extent feasible. Mine features were backfilled or otherwise safeguarded.

Date Of Request: August 31, 1994

Non-waiver/Preservation Of Rights: This request for approval of prior reclamation is made with the express understanding that Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation fully preserves and does not waive any of its positions that it has no obligations whatsoever under the Mining Act with respect to these sites including, but not limited to, the following positions:

1. That any commodities or other materials produced from the properties or activities thereon constitute commodities, materials or activities regulated by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission such that the Mining Act does not apply;
2. That minerals were not produced from the properties in marketable quantities for a total of two years since January 1, 1970;
3. That as mere owner of mineral interests and lessor under instrument(s) pursuant to which operations owned and conducted by others occurred on the properties, Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation was not and is not an operator or owner of the operations with responsibilities, if there be any, under the Mining Act; and
4. That Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation has no obligation whatsoever to request approval of prior reclamation or carry out other responsibilities, if there be any, pertaining to the properties in relation to the Mining Act.

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation makes this submission with the further understanding that neither the submission itself, nor anything stated therein, nor the fact of making the submission shall be advanced in any context, form or respect by the State of New Mexico or any agency or subdivision thereof as evidence or as an admission of any kind on any issue which may exist or hereafter arise in relation to Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation or its mineral properties in connection with the Mining Act.

MK

State of New Mexico
ENERGY, MINERALS and NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505



BRUCE KING
GOVERNOR

December 14, 1994

ANITA LOCKWOOD
CABINET SECRETARY

Mr. Tim Leftwich
Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corp.
P. O. Box 218
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87110

RE: Evaluation Guidelines for Prior Reclamation Sites.

Dear Mr. Leftwich:

The Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) will be conducting inspections for the purposes of prior reclamation for the site(s) you have requested release. Based on Section 69-36-5 E. of the New Mexico Mining Act, the MMD has developed inventory of items to determine whether the completed reclamation satisfies the requirements of the New Mexico Mining Act and the substantive requirements for reclamation pursuant to the applicable regulatory standards.

This checklist is included for your use to determine if your site meets all of the ten criteria. Based on site-specific information, the MMD will be using this checklist to establish criterion based decisions to release the site from further responsibilities under the Act or not.

MMD will begin inspection of prior reclamation sites in early 1995 and will make a determination by September 30, 1995. If you have any questions regarding the checklist or questions regarding the inspection of your reclamation sites, please contact me or Joe DeAguiro at 505\827-5970.

Sincerely,

Holland Shepherd
Bureau Chief
Mine Act Reclamation Bureau
Mining and Minerals Division

VILLAGRA BUILDING - 408 Galisteo
Forestry and Resources Conservation Division
P.O. Box 1948 87504-1948
827-5830

Park and Recreation Division
P.O. Box 1147 87504-1147
827-7465

2040 South Pacheco
Office of the Secretary
827-5950

Administrative Services
827-5925

Energy Conservation & Management
827-5900

Mining and Minerals
827-5970

LAND OFFICE BUILDING - 310 Old Santa Fe Trail
Oil Conservation Division
P.O. Box 2088 87504-2088
827-5800

**PRIOR RECLAMATION GUIDELINES FOR RELEASE FROM
REQUIREMENTS OF THE NEW MEXICO MINING ACT.**

THE PURPOSE OF THIS CHECKLIST IS TO EQUITABLY CONDUCT EACH INSPECTION OF RECLAIMED AREAS TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE COMPLETED RECLAMATION SATISFIES THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE NEW MEXICO MINING ACT AND THE SUBSTANTIVE REQUIREMENTS FOR RECLAMATION PURSUANT TO THE APPLICABLE REGULATORY STANDARDS. IF THE DIRECTOR DETERMINES THAT THOSE REQUIREMENTS ARE MET, THE OPERATOR OR OWNER SHALL BE RELEASED FROM FURTHER REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE NEW MEXICO MINING ACT.

YES	NO	
_____	_____	1) Have all disturbed or affected areas of the mining operation been mitigated?
_____	_____	2) Has there been topdressing or topsoil replacement? If yes, approximate depth:_____.
_____	_____	3) Is the material on the ground surface suitable for the re-establishment of vegetation and the post mining land use?
_____	_____	4) Is the reclaimed surface devoid of waste, ore or other mining debris (e.g. equipment & structures) that would hinder revegetation.
_____	_____	5) Has the mitigated area been stabilized to effectively control erosion which would either disrupt the post-mining land use or the re-establishment of vegetation?
_____	_____	6) Do the reclaimed areas, to the extent practicable, provide stabilization that will minimize future impacts to the environment and protect air and water resources
_____	_____	7) Are the reconstructed slopes at lengths and gradients sufficient to allow vegetation establishment without excess erosion?
_____	_____	8) Do reconstructed drainages discharge onto undisturbed areas in a manner that will not cause accelerated erosion?
_____	_____	9) If rip-rap has been placed on reconstructed drainages, has it been placed correctly and is it of durable material and of suitable size?
_____	_____	10) Has the disturbed area been reclaimed to a condition that will allow a self-sustaining ecosystem to establish as defined in Rule 1.

**SANTA FE
PACIFIC
GOLD
CORPORATION**

BOX 27019 ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87125
6200 UPTOWN BLVD NE, SUITE 400
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87110
TEL 505-880-5300 FAX 505-880-5435

November 8, 1994

Mr. Holland Shephard
Chief, Mining Act Reclamation Bureau
2040 Pacheco Drive
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505



Re: Request for additional information concerning prior reclamation

Dear Mr. Shephard:

I have received your September 19, 1994 letter requesting additional information on the sites potentially eligible for prior reclamation which we brought to your attention in our letter of August 31, 1994. With this letter we attempt to provide some of the information requested as to some of the sites. As in your August 31, 1994 letter, however, Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation ("SFPGC") again preserves all of its positions relating to the Act. Also, by providing certain information that is readily available to us and within the scope of your requests, SFPGC would like to preserve the position that the information requested is not "required" by any statutory or regulatory provision.

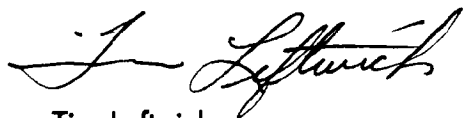
As you know, although Santa Fe holds interests in the properties it voluntarily identified in the August 31 letter, it did not own, conduct, or otherwise control any of the operations which were undertaken by third party mining companies pursuant to certain leases. As a result, SFPGC typically is not in a position to describe such things as all waste units, impoundments, stockpiles, leach piles, open pits or adits which may previously have been located at the sites. Similarly, SFPGC did not in many instances conduct the reclamation work, and so is not able to precisely describe such things as seed mixes, reclamation design, etc. Although SFPGC has voluntarily undertaken its own reclamation program at certain sites, (even prior to passage of the New Mexico Mining Act) it has done so voluntarily in the sense that it was motivated by its own corporate philosophy toward the environment rather than pursuant to any statutory, regulatory or other legal obligation.

Enclosed is the additional information we can provide, including what our latest records show as the names and addresses of the operators which should be able to provide the bulk of your desired data. We have also provided names and addresses of surface owners, since they are in the best--if not the only--position to know about post-mining land uses.

November 8, 1994
Page 2

I hope this helps the Mining Act Reclamation Bureau. Please give me a call if you or your staff would like to discuss this further.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tim Leftwich".

Tim Leftwich
Vice President -
Environmental Quality

TL:pt

Enclosure



Gallup Title Company

ABSTRACTS - ESCROWS - TITLE INSURANCE

CHARLES F. HEADEN
PHILIP G. GARCIA

October 13, 1994

Mr. G.R. Wagner
Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corp.
6200 Uptown Blvd., NE, Suite 400
Albuquerque, NM 87110

VIA FAX: (505) 880-5435

Dear George:

Pursuant to your request of October 7, 1994 following are land ownerships and addresses of owners that you asked that I check on for you, to wit:

T.13N., R.8W, Section 7: Fernandez Company
5000 San Mateo

San Mateo, NM 87050

T.13N., R.9W, Sections 1,7,17,21,23,29,and 31:

Isabel O. Marquez and
Solomon Marques, trustees
of the Isabel O. Marquez
Trust

P.O. Box 3526

Milan, NM 87021

Section 19:

Isabel O. Marquez
(above address)

T.13N., R.10W, Section 19:

Donna Jean McKinnon &

Frances Laree Fathree

C/O Volton Tietjen

P.O. Box 123

Continental Divide, NM 87312

Section 25:

Berryhill Ranch, Ltd.

7000 W. 66 Ave.

Bluewater, NM 87005

T.13N., R.11W., Section 12(SW1/4):

Elkins Real Estate

P.O. Box 50

Prewitt, NM 84045

Continued...

Continued.....

T.14N., R.10W, Sections 13 & 15:

Jerry & Luann Elkins
1010 W. 66 Ave.
Gallup, NM 87301

Sections 23 & 25:

Homestake Mining Co.
P.O. Box 98
Grants, NM 87020-0011

If you need anything further, please advise.

Very truly yours

Philip P. Garcia
Philip Garcia
ar

Sec. 13, T 1N, R 6W (Socorro Co, NM)

B.L. Henderson

P.O. Box 286

Magdalena, N.M. 87825

MARQUEZ MINE

MK015PR

MARQUEZ M

September 29, 1995

Mr. Tim J. Leftwich
 Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation
 Box 6200 Uptown Blvd. NE
 Suite 400
 Albuquerque, NM 87110

RE:
Prior Reclamation Inspections

Dear Mr. Leftwich:

The Mining and Minerals Division (MMD) has completed inspection of reclamation measures as requested by Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation.

Based on findings in the enclosed inspection reports, reclamation measures at the following mines satisfy the requirements of the New Mexico Mining Act (NMMA) and the substantive requirements for reclamation pursuant to the NMMA Rules. Santa Fe Pacific Gold, therefore, is hereby released from further requirements of the NMMA on the following mines:

Faith Mine (Section 29, T 13N R 9W)
 Section 13 (T 1N R 6W)
 Haystack Mine (Section 19, T 13N R 10W)

Reclamation measures at the following mines do not satisfy the requirements of the New Mexico Mining Act (NMMA) and the substantive requirements for reclamation pursuant to the NMMA Rules. However, since Santa Fe Pacific Gold has completed most reclamation measures at the following mines, Santa Fe may apply for a variance from the provisions of the NMMA Rules pursuant to Rule 10. Otherwise, pursuant to NMMA Rule 5.10.B Santa Fe Pacific Gold must submit permit applications and closeout plans for existing mining operations within six months of receipt of this letter.

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY - P. O. BOX 6429 - SANTA FE, NM 87505-6429 - (505) 827-5950
 ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION - P. O. BOX 6429 - SANTA FE, NM 87505-6429 - (505) 827-5925
 ENERGY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT DIVISION - P. O. BOX 6429 - SANTA FE, NM 87505-6429 - (505) 827-5900
 FORESTRY AND RESOURCES CONSERVATION DIVISION - P. O. BOX 1948 - SANTA FE, NM 87504-1948 - (505) 827-5830
 MINING AND MINERALS DIVISION - P. O. BOX 6429 - SANTA FE, NM 87505-6429 - (505) 827-5970
 OIL CONSERVATION DIVISION - P. O. BOX 6429 - SANTA FE, NM 87505-6429 - (505) 827-7111
 PARK AND RECREATION DIVISION - P. O. BOX 1147 - SANTA FE, NM 87504-1147 - (505) 827-7465

Isabella Mine (Section 7, T 13N R 9W)
Marquez Mine (Section 23, T13N R9W
Poison Canyon Mine (Section 19, T 13N R 9W)
Section 1 (T 13N R 9W)
Section 31 (T 13N R 9W)
Section 25 Mine (Section 25, T 13N R 10W)
SW 1/4 Section 13 (T 13N R11W)

The location of the mine on Section (T 13N R 9W) was not adequately identified by Santa Fe Pacific Gold for inspection by MMD. The Mining and Minerals Division attempted to locate the site, but was unable to do so. Therefore, no inspection for prior reclamation was made. If reclamation measures have been performed, this site may also be addressed under a variance.

The enclosed prior reclamation inspection report details the findings of the inspection but does not include the photos/slides contained in the MMD file copy.

MMD appreciates your efforts to comply with the NMMA and commends you for your safeguarding and reclamation efforts. If you have any questions please contact Holland Shepherd of the Mining Act Bureau, (505) 827-5971.

Sincerely,



Kathleen A. Garland, Director
Mining and Minerals Division

cc: Ms. Maxine Goad, Environment Department
Mr. Sonny Marquez
S. Farthree and McKingen
S. Berryhill Ranch

Enclosures

**PRIOR RECLAMATION INSPECTION REPORT
AND
RECOMMENDATION FOR RELEASE OR PERMIT
REQUIREMENT**

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation

**Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of New Mexico Mining Act
Section 69-36-7 U., Prior Reclamation**

**New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department
Mining and Minerals Division
Mining Act Reclamation Bureau**

September 29, 1995

Introduction

The purpose of this study was to determine if reclamation measures at 11 mines, for which Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation requested prior reclamation inspections, satisfy the requirements of the New Mexico Mining Act and substantive requirements for reclamation pursuant to the New Mexico Mining Act Rules. The sites are tabulated in Table I. Figures 1 and 2 are maps showing the locations of the mine sites.

Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation (Santa Fe) is the owner of the mineral rights at all the mine sites mentioned above, with the possible exception of the mine on Section 17 T13N R9W. Santa Fe Pacific Gold was not the operator any of the sites, but has reclaimed the sites (Santa Fe, 1994) in an effort to remove any further liabilities relative to the New Mexico Mining Act. Neither is Santa Fe the surface owner of any of the sites. This has hindered reclamation activities because Santa Fe cannot restrict grazing by surface owners on reclaimed areas. The known surface owners are listed in Table I.

Table I
Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation Prior Reclamation Inspection Sites

Name of Mine	Location of Mine	Operator	Surface Owner	Inspected
Unknown	SW1/4 Section 13 T13N R11W	Todilto Exploration	Cerrillos Land Company	Aug. 31, 1995 Young & Tierney
Unknown	Section 13 T1N R6W	M. P. Grace	Unknown	Sept. 21, 1995 Young & Shepherd
Unknown	Section 1 T13W R9W	Kerr-McGee	Sonny Marquez	Sept. 13, 1995 Young & Martinez
Unknown	Section 17 T13N R9W	United Nuclear Corp.	Unknown	Could not be located in field
Haystack	Section 19 T13N R10W	Todilto Exploration	S. Farthree and McKingen	Aug. 31, 1995 Young & Tierney
Section 25 Mine	Section 25 T13N R10W	Reserve Oil and Minerals	S. Berryhill Ranch	Aug. 31, 1995 Young & Tierney
Unknown	Section 31 T13N R9W	United Nuclear Corp.	Unknown	Aug. 31, 1995 Young & Tierney
Faith Mine	Section 29 T13N R9W	Ranchers Exploration	Unknown	Aug. 31, 1995 Young & Tierney
Isabella Mine	Section 7 T13N R9W	Ranchers Exploration	Unknown	Aug. 31, 1995 Young & Tierney
Marquez Mine	Section 23 T13N R9W	United Nuclear Corp.	Sonny Marquez	Aug. 31, 1995 Young & Tierney
Poison Canyon Mine	Section 19 T13N R9W	Reserve Oil and Minerals	Cerrillos Land Company	Aug. 31, 1995 Young & Tierney

Inspection Procedures

On August 31, 1995 Santa Fe Pacific Gold escorted MMD personnel on a quick inspection of 8 of 11 sites for which Santa Fe submitted prior reclamation inspection requests. Ms. Denise Gallegos, Manager-Environmental Compliance and Audits, Mr. Paul Eby, Director-Field Operations, Mr. Lee Simpkins and Mr. Larry Taylor, Contractor, represented Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation. Mr. Robert Young, Environmental Engineer and Dr. Robyn Tierny, Reclamation Specialist represented the New Mexico Mining and Minerals Division. On September 12 Mr. Robert Young and Mr. Fernando Martinez, Reclamation Specialist revisited six of the above sites to take additional measurements. The site on Section 1 T13W R9W was inspected on September 13 by Mr. Robert Young and Mr. Fernando Martinez, Reclamation Specialist. Another site on Section 13 T1N R6W was inspected September 21, 1995 by Robert Young and Holland Shepherd, Mining Act Bureau Chief. Santa Fe Pacific Gold did not attend the inspections of the sites on

Sections 1 T13W R9W or Section 13 T1N R6W. Another site on Section 17 T13N R9W, for which a prior reclamation inspection was requested (Santa Fe, 1994), was searched for, but could not be found. Without an inspection of the site, no evaluation could be made regarding prior reclamation status.

Inspections of each mine site consisted of a review of information submitted by the mine operator, subsequent discussion with the operator pertaining to mining and reclamation at each site, inspection of the condition of the reclaimed mine sites, line-intercept sampling for estimates of vegetative cover, compilation of plant species lists, measurement of reclaimed soil depths, and photo-documentation. Each of the mine sites were visually inspected for erosion features and hydrologic stability. During a walkover of each site, all slopes, areas of water concentration (ponds, diversions and areas where disturbed areas enter undisturbed lands) were visually inspected for stability. Topsoil placement and distribution also was evaluated at each site. Sampling for topsoil depth consisted of randomly digging a series of holes to identify the depth of topsoil and the presence or absence of potentially toxic wasterock at rooting depth. Grading of all wasterock piles and borrow areas was visually inspected. Placement and closure of portals and vent shafts was verified in the field.

The establishment and relative percent cover of reseeded and native plant species were evaluated in randomly placed transects. Fifty foot transects were evaluated at each mine site using the line intercept method (Bonham 1989). These transects were used to estimate the relative percent cover of each plant species intercepted at 3' intervals along a transect. A total of 17 points per transect were recorded. In addition, a list of species present within a 50' X 6' belt transect adjacent to each transect was compiled. These sampling procedures, however, do not meet sample adequacy. Rather, these procedures were conducted to estimate the relative percent cover and to evaluate the diversity of species present at each of the eight mine sites. Additional resources would be needed to fully evaluate the vegetation of these prior reclamation sites to a level of sample adequacy and would require at least 24 additional man-hours of inspection time per site. Where it was obvious that sufficient vegetation existed on site, or insufficient vegetation existed, no transect evaluations were made. Photos were taken, in these situations, to document the vegetation cover.

Results and Discussion

SW1/4 Section 13 T13N R11W

This was a surface mine, located approximately 27 miles north west of the City of Grants, New Mexico. The mine is characterized by red Entrada Sandstone cliffs that tower above it. The uranium mineralization occurred in Todilto Limestone just below the Entrada Sandstone. A barbed wire fence surrounded the site. All structures, trash or junk had been removed from the site. There were no piles or accumulations of toxic or waste material on the site. There were no apparent hazards that could effect public health and safety. Photos documenting vegetation and the general condition of the site are in Appendix A. The site was reclaimed in 1994 and reseeded in the fall of 1994 by Santa Fe Pacific Gold (Eby, 1995). The regrading included, at the request of the surface owner, the construction of six depressions to impound rainwater for livestock (Eby, 1995). There were minor rills from water flowing into these depressions. Topsoil depths across the site averaged 6 inches.

Cattle, sheep, goats, and wildlife have heavily grazed the reclaimed portions of this site and the vegetation showed signs of drought stress. Line-intercept transects showed perennial cover to be approximately 12 percent (Tierney, 1995). The results of the vegetation measurements are presented in Table II. This site was evaluated as having an insufficient vegetation cover to qualify for release.

TABLE II
SW1/4 Section 13 T13N R11W Vegetation Measurements

Visual	Transect
<i>Ambrosia dumosa</i>	BG
<i>Papaver</i> sp.	BG
<i>Oryzopsis hymenoides</i>	BG
<i>Cleome serrulata</i>	<i>Atriplex canescens</i>
<i>Atriplex canescens</i>	BG
<i>Gutierrezia sarothrae</i>	BG
	BG
	BG
	BG
	BG
	BG
	BG
	BG
	BG
	BG

	BG
	<i>Oryzopsis hymenoides</i>
	Rock

Average Perennial Cover = 12%

Rock Cover = 6%

Section 13 T1N R6W

This was a surface mine, located approximately 36 miles north west of the City of Magdalena, New Mexico. The site is within a mile of the Alamo Navajo Indian Reservation. Uranium bearing sandstone was contoured along an outcrop in the side of Jaralosa Creek Canyon. The operator, M.P. Grace, operated the mine under a lease from then Santa Fe Pacific Minerals Corporation. The lease was terminated in 1979 and the site was reclaimed in 1980 (Santa Fe, 1994). The total area of disturbance was about 2 acres.

While it was difficult to locate the mine site, there were several small waste piles. Natural vegetation had successfully reestablished itself such that the waste piles were nearly indistinguishable from the natural mounds and ridges along the canyon. The location of the mine was located by a red clay that had been uncovered in one pit and was out of place. There was moderate erosion, but the erosion was consistent with that of the surrounding area. A powder magazine, circa 1970's, was left as a mining relic. All other structures, trash and junk had been removed. There were no piles or accumulations of toxic or waste material. There were no apparent hazards that could effect public health or safety.

The site and surrounding area showed signs of grazing impacts. Plant diversity, however, was good with more than 21 native plant species identified on the site. It was very difficult to distinguish this site from the adjacent undisturbed areas, so no transect evaluation was deemed necessary. Photographs documenting vegetation and the general condition of the site are presented in Appendix B. Because of the quality of cover and diversity of plants found on the site, it qualifies for release.

Section 1 T13W R9W

This mine site is located on a shelf in a canyon wall about 50 feet above the canyon floor. The canyon was eroded into Dakota Sandstone. The mine had been operated by Kerr-McGee under a lease agreement with Santa Fe Pacific Gold and was safeguarded by Kerr-McGee upon termination of that agreement (Santa Fe, 1994). All structures, trash or junk had been removed from the site. There were no piles or accumulations of toxic or waste material on the site. A vertical shaft had been backfilled with nontoxic mine waste material.

Essentially, the site had been safeguarded but not topsoiled or reseeded. The site is characterized by white fine grained sandstone covered by a few inches of fine white sand. The sand is subsequently being eroded away by wind and water. A mine access road had significant erosion. An impoundment had been constructed to impound sediment from the mine site, however, erosion from the access road was bypassing the impoundment and was entering the mine site. Photographs documenting vegetation and the general condition of the site are presented in Appendix C.

Some native plant species from adjoining areas were invading the disturbance area. Line-intercept transects indicated vegetation cover to be approximately 29 percent (Young, 1995). Vegetation measurements are presented in Table III. Vegetation on this site is dominated by hairy goldenaster (*Heterotheca villosa*), an unpalatable increaser. Indian ricegrass (*Oryzopsis hymenoides*), was also found growing sparsely on the site. Given the sandy nature of these soils, stands of Indian ricegrass and sand dropseed (*Sporobolus cryptandrus*) should be more prevalent here. Because of the overall lack of diversity and the poor establishment of perennial grasses and forbs, this site does not qualify for release.

TABLE III
Section 1 T13W R9W Vegetation Measurements

Visual	Transect #1	Transect #2
<i>Gutierrezia sarothrae</i>	BG	<i>Heterotheca villosa</i>
<i>Atriplex canescens</i>	BG	BG
<i>Oryzopsis hymenoides</i>	BG	<i>Heterotheca villosa</i>
<i>Heterotheca villosa</i>	BG	<i>Oryzopsis hymenoides</i>
	BG	<i>Heterotheca villosa</i>
	BG	<i>Heterotheca villosa</i>
	BG	BG
	<i>Heterotheca villosa</i>	BG
	BG	<i>Oryzopsis hymenoides</i>
	BG	BG
	<i>Heterotheca villosa</i>	BG
	BG	<i>Heterotheca villosa</i>
	BG	Bedrock
	BG	Bedrock
	Rock	BG
	<i>Heterotheca villosa</i>	BG
	Rock	BG

Average Vegetative Cover = 29%

Section 17 T13N R9W

This site was not shown to MMD staff by Santa Fe Pacific Gold personnel and could not be located in the field. Presumably, the site has been reclaimed (Santa Fe, 1994). However, without a formal inspection of this mine site, no evaluation could be made by MMD personal regarding the mine's prior reclamation status.

This site cannot be released at this time.

Haystack Mine (Section 19 T13N R10W)

This mine was the original Paddy Martinez discovery. It was a surface mine located approximately 27 miles north west of Grants, New Mexico. The mine was operated under an agreement with Santa Fe Pacific Minerals Corporation. The uranium mineral was found in the Todilto Limestone. Santa Fe Pacific Gold began reclamation of this site in 1990 under an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) action that concluded in 1991 (Santa Fe, 1994). At the time of this inspection, Santa Fe claimed to have a letter of release from the EPA (Gallegos, pers. comm.), and indicated that a copy would be sent to MMD. However, MMD never received this copy.

A barbed wire fence surrounded the site. All structures, trash or junk had been removed from the site. There were no piles or accumulations of toxic or waste material on the site. There were no apparent hazards that could effect public health or safety. There were no erosion features. Photographs documenting the vegetation and the general condition of the site are presented in Appendix E. Topsoil depths across the site ranged from four to six inches.

Grazing by domestic livestock and wildlife have had some impact on the vegetative cover of this reclaimed site. Most of the reclaimed area had been heavily grazed and showed signs of drought stress. Line-intercept transects showed perennial cover to be approximately 32 percent and litter cover 18 percent (Tierney, 1995). Vegetation measurements are presented in Table IV. Because of the perennial quality of plant cover and diversity on this site, staff recommends it for release.

TABLE IV
Haystack Mine Vegetation Measurements

Visual	Transect #1 North side of	Transect #2 On Wasterock
<i>Atriplex canescens</i>	BG	BG
<i>Chrysothamnus nauseosus</i>	<i>Bouteloua gracillis</i>	<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>
<i>Sporobolus cryptandrus</i>	<i>Bouteloua gracillis</i>	Litter
<i>Juniperus monsperma</i>	BG	<i>Atriplex canescens</i>
<i>Ambrosia dumosa</i>	<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>	BG
<i>Kochia scoparium</i>	<i>Oryzopsis hymenoides</i>	<i>Oryzopsis hymenoides</i>
<i>Mirabilis</i> sp.	<i>Oryzopsis hymenoides</i>	BG
<i>Phlox</i> sp.	Litter	BG
<i>Mentzelia pungens</i>	<i>Salsola kali</i>	BG
<i>Salsola kali</i>	Litter	BG
<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>	BG	BG

<i>Oryzopsis hymenoides</i>	BG	BG
	Litter	<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>
	<i>Agropyron</i> sp.	<i>Sporobolus cryptandrus</i>
	<i>Oryzopsis hymenoides</i>	<i>Oryzopsis hymenoides</i>
	Litter	Litter
	Litter	Litter

Average Perennial Cover = 32%

Litter Cover = 21%

Section 25 Mine

The Section 25 mine is located 14 miles northwest of Grants, New Mexico. This 8-acre site was a surface mine operated by Reserve Oil and Minerals. It was reclaimed and reseeded by Santa Fe Pacific Gold in 1993. Additional reclamation activities were performed in 1994. A barbed wire fence surrounded the site. All structures, trash or junk had been removed from the site. There were no piles or accumulations of toxic or waste material on the site. There were no apparent hazards that could effect public health and safety. There were several topsoil mounds left by Santa Fe because small mammals had extensively burrowed into them and were using them for habitat. Photographs documenting the vegetation and the general condition of the site are presented in Appendix F. The regrading included construction of three large depressions that impounded rainwater for livestock. There was one significant erosion feature and several areas of minor erosion on the sides of these depressions. Topsoil depths across the site were greater than 12 inches. An earthworm found while measuring soil depths at this site is a good sign that the soils are generally non-toxic.

Portions of the reclaimed vegetation have heavily grazed by wildlife and domestic livestock. However, native plant species were invading the area. Twenty-six native species of plants were identified. Line-intercept transects showed average perennial vegetation cover to be approximately 22 percent (Young, 1995). Vegetation measurements are presented in Table V. Despite the slight increase in the number of perennial species invading this site from adjacent areas, there was poor establishment of the perennial grasses, forbs, and shrubs on the slopes of the depressions and topsoil mounds. Because of the lack of adequate cover, this site does not qualify for release at this time.

TABLE V
Section 25 Mine Vegetation Measurements

Visual	Transect #1 West Depression (Soil Depth +1')	Transect #2 Middle of Site (Soil Depth +1')	Transect #3 East Side of Site (Soil Depth +1')
<i>Mirabilis multiflora</i>	BG	BG	<i>Oryzopsis hymenoides</i>
<i>Aster</i> sp.	<i>Erigeron</i> sp.	BG	BG
<i>Lepidium</i> sp.	BG	BG	Rock
<i>Cleome serrulata</i>	<i>Senecio longilobus</i>	BG	BG

<i>Sphaeralcea incana</i>	BG	<i>Mentzelia</i> sp.	BG
<i>Senecio longilobus</i>	BG	BG	BG
<i>Chrysothamnus nauseosus</i>	<i>Oryzopsis hymenoides</i>	BG	Rock
<i>Sporobolus cryptandrus</i>	Litter	BG	BG
<i>Gutierrezia sarothrae</i>	Litter	BG	<i>Oryzopsis hymenoides</i>
<i>Boutelloua gracilis</i>	<i>Cleome serrulata</i>	BG	Rock
<i>Agropyron smithii</i>	<i>Oryzopsis hymenoides</i>	BG	BG
<i>Mentzelia decapetala</i>	<i>Oryzopsis hymenoides</i>	BG	BG
<i>Oryzopsis hymenoides</i>	BG	<i>Agropyron smithii</i>	BG
<i>Atriplex canescens</i>	BG	BG	BG
<i>Sparganium</i> sp.	<i>Cleome serrulata</i>	<i>Agropyron smithii</i>	BG
<i>Atriplex canescens</i>	BG	BG	Rock
Fleabane	BG	BG	BG

Average Vegetative Cover = 22%

Section 31 T13N R9W

This was a surface mine located 14 miles northwest of the Grants, New Mexico. The mine was operated by United Nuclear Corporation until termination of the lease in 1975. Open adits and shafts were backfilled and otherwise safeguarded in 1987. The site was reclaimed and reseeded by Santa Fe the fall of 1994 (Santa Fe, 1994). All structures, trash or junk had been removed from the site however, trespass dumping has since taken place. There were no piles or accumulations of toxic or waste material on the site. There were no apparent hazards that could effect public health or safety. There were minor erosion features where water had flowed into depressions. Twenty foot slopes of limestone cobble were left on the south side of the reclaimed area to blend in with a natural limestone outcropping. Several 6 foot high, 50 foot long topsoil stockpiles were left because small animals were burrowing into them and were using them for habitat. Photographs documenting vegetation and general condition of the site are presented in Appendix G.

There was evidence of grazing by livestock and wildlife on this site. Vegetation also showed signs of drought stress. Line-intercept transects showed vegetation cover to be approximately 12 percent (Young, 1995). The results of these vegetation measurements are presented in Table VI. Because of the lack of cover and diversity, staff does not recommend this site for release.

TABLE VI
Section 31 T13N R9W Vegetation Measurements

Visual	Transect #1	Transect #2	Transect #3
<i>Mirabilis multiflora</i>	Rock	<i>Oryzopsis hymenoides</i>	BG
<i>Sphaeralcea incana</i>	Rock	Rock	BG
<i>Oryzopsis hymenoides</i>	BG	BG	BG
<i>Senecio longilobus</i>	Rock	BG	BG
<i>Ceratoides lanata</i>	Rock	BG	BG
<i>Salvia</i> sp.	Rock	BG	BG
<i>Gutierrezia sarothrae</i>	BG	BG	BG
<i>Atriplex canescens</i>	BG	BG	<i>Oryzopsis hymenoides</i>
<i>Lycium pallidum</i>	<i>Salvia</i> sp.	BG	BG
<i>Sporobolus airoides</i>	Rock	BG	BG
<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>	Litter	BG	BG
<i>Mentzelia decapetala</i>	Rock	BG	BG
<i>Agropyron smithii</i>	Rock	BG	Rock
	Rock	<i>Oryzopsis hymenoides</i>	<i>Oryzopsis hymenoides</i>
	Rock	BG	<i>Oryzopsis hymenoides</i>
	Rock	Litter	BG
	Rock	BG	Rock

Average Vegetative Cover = 12%

Faith Mine (Section 29 T13N R9W)

This underground mine was reclaimed in 1986 (Eby, 1995). Native vegetation from adjoining undisturbed lands had invaded the site and it was difficult to tell that a mine had previously existed on this site. Approximately one acre had recently been regraded and reclaimed, the only other indication of the mine presence was a revegetated mound where a vertical shaft had been backfilled with nontoxic mine waste material (Eby, 1995). All structures, trash or junk had been removed from the site. There were no piles or accumulations of toxic or waste material on the site. Similarly, there were no erosion features. Photographs documenting vegetation and general condition of the site are presented in Appendix H. Topsoil depths across the site ranged from 4 to 6 inches.

As with the other mines, the vegetation had been grazed by wildlife and domestic livestock. The vegetation also showed signs of drought stress. However, the adequate plant cover and diversity deemed it unnecessary to perform transect evaluations of the plant community. Staff recommends this site of release. The plant

community has been documented by photographs (See Appendix H).

Isabella Mine

This was a 2-acre site consisting of a head frame for underground mining. Ranchers Exploration conducted limited operations on this section under a lease from Santa Fe Pacific Minerals Corporation. The site was reclaimed in 1987, but is still accessed by a two-track road from the Old Wilcoxon Ranch. All structures, trash or junk had been removed from the site. The mine shaft had been backfilled with nontoxic mine waste material (Eby, 1995). There were no piles or accumulations of toxic or waste material on the site. There was one erosion feature, 200 feet south of the shaft site, which threatens to head cut across from an unnamed ephemeral tributary of Arroyo del Puerto running adjacent to the site. This head cut if left unchecked will eventually intercept the closed shaft. Mr. Paul Eby said that Santa Fe Pacific Gold would repair it. Photographs documenting the vegetation and the general condition of the site are presented in Appendix I. Topsoil depths across the site ranged from 4 to 6 inches.

Again, the mine site had been grazed by livestock and wildlife. Similarly, vegetation showed signs of drought stress. Line-intercept transects indicated that vegetation cover was approximately 15 percent (Young, 1995). Results of vegetation measurements are presented in Table VII. Because of the lack of plant cover, this site is not recommended for release.

TABLE VII
Isabella Mine Vegetation Measurements

Visual	Transect #1	Transect #2
<i>Oryzopsis hymenoides</i>	BG	BG
<i>Bouteloua gracilis</i>	Litter	BG
<i>Atriplex canescens</i>	BG	BG
<i>Juniperus</i> sp.	BG	BG
<i>Cleome serrulata</i>	<i>Kochia scoparia</i>	BG
<i>Agropyron smithii</i>	BG	BG
	BG	<i>Salsola iberica</i>
	BG	BG
	BG	BG
	BG	BG
	<i>Salsola iberica</i>	BG
	Litter	BG
	BG	<i>Salsola iberica</i>
	BG	<i>Kochia scoparia</i>

	BG	BG
	BG	BG
	BG	BG

Marquez Mine

This site is reached by a two-track road from a ranching complex known as the Marquez Old Home Place. It was the site of a decline shaft adit below a cliff outcropping of the Dakota Sandstone. United Nuclear leased the section from Santa Fe Pacific Minerals Corporation. Open mine features were backfilled in 1987. The site is characterized by the sand dune appearance of a mine waste pile backfilling a declined shaft adit. The site lies within San Mateo Creek Canyon, however, and the high and constant winds move soils to form sand dunes. Further, San Mateo Creek is ephemeral at this location and windblown sand from the streambed forms dunes against the cliff face. All structures, trash or junk had been removed from the site with the exception of some pipe and lumber (left at the request (Eby, 1995) of the surface lessee, Sonny Marquez). There were no piles or accumulations of toxic or waste material on the site. Photographs documenting the vegetation and general condition of the site are presented in Appendix J. The decline shaft had been backfilled with nontoxic mine waste material. Regrading of the site also included construction of terraces to break up slopes.

Topsoil depths across the site were greater than 12 inches, but consisted entirely of windblown sand. This area was essentially barren with most of the seed and mulch blown away before vegetation could be established. Native species such as Indian ricegrass (*Oryzopsis hymenoides*), from adjoining areas were starting to invade the disturbance area (Young, 1995). Because of the obvious lack of plant cover at the site no transects were attempted. Staff does not recommend release of this site.

Poison Canyon Mine

This site is characterized by an abundance of sunflowers and locoweed. The locoweed is probably a selenium accumulator for which the canyon (also known as 'Sheep Kill Canyon') was named. Reserve Oil and Minerals operated the mine under a lease from Santa Fe Pacific Minerals Corporation. Open mine features were backfilled and the mine reclaimed in 1987 upon termination of the lease. Additional reclamation of the site was conducted in 1993 and 1994 (Santa Fe, 1994). A barbed wire fence surrounded the site. All structures, trash or junk had been removed from the site. There were no piles or accumulations of toxic or waste material on the site. There were a few erosion features including one that was significant. Photographs documenting vegetation and general condition of the site are presented in Appendix K. An inclined shaft portal had been backfilled with nontoxic mine waste material (Santa Fe, 1994). The regrading of this site included construction of mounds, berms, terraces and depressions that impounded rainwater for livestock.

Topsoil depths across the site were approximately 4 inches. Line-intercept transects indicated that perennial vegetative cover was approximately 31 percent. The results of these vegetation measurements are presented in Table VIII.

TABLE VIII
Poison Canyon Vegetation Measurements

Visual	Transect #1	Transect #2	Transect #3
<i>Agropyron</i> sp.	Rock	Rock	BG
<i>Aster bigolovii</i>	BG	BG	Rock
<i>Agropyron smithii</i>	<i>Helianthus</i> sp.	BG	<i>Helianthus</i> sp.
<i>Oxytropis lambertii</i>	<i>Helianthus</i> sp.	BG	BG
<i>Mentzelia decapetala</i>	Rock	BG	BG
<i>Gutierrezia sarothrae</i>	BG	<i>Atriplex canescens</i>	Rock
<i>Linum perenne lewisii</i>	BG	<i>Agropyron smithii</i>	Rock
<i>Cleome serrulata</i>	BG	Litter	<i>Helianthus</i> sp.
<i>Melilotus officinalis</i>	BG	<i>Atriplex canescens</i>	<i>Agropyron smithii</i>
<i>Sphaeralcea coccinea</i>	<i>Oryzopsis hymenoides</i>	<i>Salsola iberica</i>	BG
<i>Helianthus</i> sp.	BG	BG	BG
<i>Oryzopsis hymenoides</i>	BG	<i>Atriplex canescens</i>	BG
<i>Hordeum jubatum</i>	<i>Helianthus</i> sp.	<i>Kochia scoparia</i>	BG
<i>Senecio longilobus</i>	Rock	<i>Oryzopsis hymenoides</i>	BG
<i>Sphaeralcea incana</i>	Rock	BG	<i>Helianthus</i> sp.
<i>Atriplex canescens</i>	BG	BG	<i>Helianthus</i> sp.
	BG	Litter	BG

Average Vegetative Cover = 27 %

Conclusions and Recommendations

Based on the inspection of the 11 mine sites, review of inspection information with Mining and Minerals Division staff and MMD's resources to conduct these inspections, it is recommended that:

the Haystack (Section 19 T13N R10W), Section 13 (T 1N R 6W) and Faith (Section 29 T13N R9W) Mines

be released from further requirements of the New Mexico Mining Act. The other mine sites:

SW1/4 of Section 13 (T 13N R11W), Section 1 (T 13W R 9W), Section 31 (T 13N R 9W), Section 7 (T13N R 9W, a.k.a. Isabella Mine), Section 23 (T 13N R 9W, a.k.a. Marquez Mine), Section 25 (T 13N R 10W), and Section 19 (T 13N R9W, a.k.a. Poison Canyon Mine)

staff has determined do not meet the environmental conditions that allow for the development of a 'self-sustaining ecosystem' as defined in Rule 1. and put forth in Rule 5.7A of the New Mexico Mining Act. Some of these site were reclaimed in July 1994, so present a situation where it is difficult to determine vegetation success. One season of growth in the areas under evaluation does not provide sufficient time to make this kind of a determination. The sites remain at a very early successional stage and contain mostly weedy species or no species.

However, based on oral communications with the operator, and on the inspected condition of these remaining reclaimed sites as documented by this inspection report, it is clear that the operator has made an effort to complete the required reclamation of these remaining sites. It is therefore recommended that the Director of MMD give a variance to Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation from meeting the deadline of September 30, 1995 for prior reclamation under the New Mexico Mining Act and Rules for: the SW1/4 of Section 13 (T 13N R11W), Section 1(T 13W R 9W), Section 31 (T 13N R 9W), Section 7 (T13N R 9W, a.k.a. Isabella Mine), Section 23 (T 13N R 9W, a.k.a. Marquez Mine), and Section 19 (T 13N R9W, a.k.a. Poison Canyon Mine) mine sites. This variance would stipulate that inspections will be conducted by MMD during the late summer of 1997 at each of these remaining sites to determine if the conditions necessary for development of a 'sustainable ecosystem' are then present on-site, and if any further actions including (but not limited to) reseeding or interseeding by the operator are necessary.

The Section 17 (T 13N R 9W) mine site was not adequately identified by Santa Fe Pacific Gold for inspection by MMD. The Mining and Minerals Division attempted to locate the site, but was unable to do so. Therefore, no inspection for prior reclamation status was made. This site could also be addressed under a variance.

References

- Bonham, C. D. 1989. *Measurements for Terrestrial Vegetation*. Wiley-Interscience. 338 pp.
- Eby, Paul G. 1995. Director-Field Operations, Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation, Personal Communication.
- Santa Fe (Santa Fe Pacific Gold Corporation) 1994. Prior Reclamation Request.
- Tierney, Dr. Robyn 1995. Reclamation Specialist, MMD, Field Notes.
- Young, Robert S. 1995. Environmental Engineer, MMD, Field Notes.

Appendix A

Photo Documentation
SW1/4 Section 13 T13N R11W
(no photo documentation)

Appendix B

Photo Documentation Section 13 T1N R6W